

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention relates to data networks, and to nodes making up parts of data networks, arranged to derive information relating to the characterisation of paths taken by data travelling between nodes in the networks. Path characterisation information is fed back from a receiver of data to a provider of data, and informs nodes subsequently forwarding data of characteristics of the downstream path. Also described are routing and related controlling nodes and methods for using such path characterisation information to make informed routing and other decisions when forwarding data in a data network.